(b) and (c) Towards meeting the ever-increasing demands of various user agencies/organisations, 1SRO is gearing itself to build the required number of newer satellites in the coming years, both for communications and remote sensing purposes, with enhanced capacities and capabilities, incorporating various new technologies, including the microwave imaging.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of permanent National Statistical Commission

1351. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Statistical Commission headed by Dr. C. Rangarajan recommended for creation of a new National Commission of Statistics to revamp the country's statistical system;

(b) if so, the details of such recommendations;

(c) the other recommendations made by the NSC; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the commission has also proposed for restructuring the existing statistics wing of his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commission have recommended creation of a National Commission on Statistics as a permanent and statutory apex body.

(c) and (d) The report is in two volumes containing 623 recommendations including those relaing to reform and restructuring of the Indian Statistical System/organizations. These recommendations broadly relate to the following:

1. Reform in the administrative structure of the Indian Statistical System and upgrading its infrastructure so as to ensure its autonomy;

2. Improvement of the present system of collection of data in relation to data that are currently being generated;

3. Exploration of alternative techniques in relation to the existing statistics;

4. Identification of new data series that may be generated in keeping pace with the expanding economy; and

5. Evaluation of appropriate methodologies for collection of data in relation to the new data requirements.

Pending Projects

1352. SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 188 projects each worth Rs. 100 crores, commuting an estimated Rs. 1,3,496 crores, are pending over long periods, some of them even for 11 years, involving huge cost-overrun to the extent of 20 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and reasons for delay in each case, as also schedules of original and revised target dates of completion and original and revised estimates of expenditure;

(c) the steps being taken to speed up their completion as per the revised targets; and

(d) the details of the monitoring mechanism established to keep track of completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) As on 31st October, 2001, 191 projects, each costing Rs. 100 crores and above are on the monitor of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The cost of 191 projects has increased from Rs. 1,37,461 crores to Rs. 1,60,800 crores, i.e., by 17%. Of these 191 projects, 5 projects are ahead of schedule, 60 projects are on schedule and 59 projects are delayed, remaining 67 projects including 50 Railway projects do not have any definite date of commissioning.